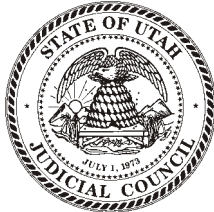


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NEWS RELEASE



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COURT PRESENTS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AWARDS

The Utah State Courts have recognized seven individuals and one municipality with Restorative Justice Awards in each of the state's eight judicial districts. The awards recognize efforts to partner with the courts on youth work restitution programs. Restorative Justice is a program of Utah's Juvenile Court system where youth offenders work on community service projects to pay restitution to their victims. Third District Juvenile Court Judge Andrew Valdez presented the awards on Oct. 8 at the annual Restorative Justice Conference at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in Salt Lake City.

Following is a listing of award recipients:

First Judicial District-Lisa Perez, conservation education coordinator, Logan Ranger District, oversees the area's Forest Service volunteer program, which provides work for youth offenders.

Second Judicial District-Dar Belnap, a farmer from Hooper, has set aside land for work crews to plant and harvest vegetables. More than 1,000 pounds of vegetables grown in the garden have been donated to those in need.

Third Judicial District-City of Taylorsville has partnered with Third District Juvenile Court to provide community service opportunities to hundreds of youth offenders. Since 1996, youth have completed more than 25,000 service hours in Taylorsville performing duties such as shoveling snow, pulling weeds, cleaning parks, and painting over graffiti.

Fourth Judicial District-Mildred Olson, a resident of Payson, has organized Triad, which is a program that assists senior citizens needing help with yard work and snow removal. In addition, Olsen has served on numerous boards assisting youth in the community.

Fifth Judicial District-Hurricane Mayor Thomas Hirschi has been recognized for his ongoing support of the Juvenile Court Work Program. Mayor Hirschi has helped to educate others on the importance of youth restitution while insuring crews have the tools and equipment needed to complete the work.

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Sixth Judicial District-Ron Pipher has partnered with Sixth District Juvenile Court to work with youth in Sanpete County on projects that benefit the community and the North Sanpete Middle School.

Seventh Judicial District-Rayburn Jack has been involved with the court's community service program for 15 years. Jack has volunteered numerous hours to assist youth offenders in completing community service hours at the Four Corner's Care Center in Blanding.

Eighth Judicial District-Al Stone, director, Uintah Recreation District has worked to improve playground equipment and park facilities for youth while providing special projects for work crews.

From January 1 through December 31, 2003, Utah's Juvenile Courts collected \$1.2 million in restitution for victims and tabulated 710,858 community hours completed by youth offenders.

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The mission of the Utah State Courts is to provide an open, fair, efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.